

Las Lunas is Center of Rich Agricultural Region---Kelly

Staff Correspondent of The Evening Herald Invades Ancient Stronghold of the Luna Family and Inhales the Fragrance of Fruit Blossoms and Talks With Prosperous and Busy Farmers Who Are Putting Soil in Shape for Usual Big Crop Which Never Fails in That Region: Pointers on Busy Village of Valencia County.

(John T. Kelly, Staff Correspondent.)

Los Lunas, April 1.—This town, the ancient capital of Valencia county, is looking forward to one of the most prosperous seasons it has had in many years.

Today, as I walked through its rambling streets, I saw the peach trees in full blossom and the apple trees just beginning to leaf. The warm weather of the past ten days has advanced and developed vegetation wonderfully in this section and if it continues for another week all vegetative nature hereabouts will be bronzed from its winter slumber. This early development of vegetation in the neighborhood of Los Lunas and other parts of this valley should serve to warn farmers of the danger that may be occasioned by frost during this month, and hence they should take all precautions to prevent injury to the budding fruit crop from this source.

Prospects Bright for This Season.

As I have said, the farmers and stockmen who reside in and about Los Lunas are congratulating each other over the bright prospects that are now presented to them for this season in both lines of effort. There have been copious rains here during the winter and spring; in fact, more moisture has fallen here this year than for many preceding years. That is one reason, and a very good reason it is, too, why the people of Los Lunas are smiling into the face of the immediate future, and another reason for their optimistic spirit at this time is the large flow of water now in the Rio Grande. The old timers here and there are some residents of this town who will remember when Los Lunas was full of the glitter and life of a frontier army post—say that the index of a prosperous season is the condition of the river at this season provided the weather is balmy and spring-like. Certainly the weather in recent days has indicated an early spring for planting and the flow of water in the river illustrates that the sun's rays are heating down with warmth on the mountain tops where the snows that feed the Rio Grande lie many feet deep.

Fruit Growing Increasing at Los Lunas

The farmers about here are greatly increasing their orchard acreage. The principal fruits raised here are apples and peaches. In recent years more attention has been given to fruit culture than heretofore. Land owners are beginning to realize that if this valley, including the Los Lunas section of it, can be developed into a fruit country, real estate values will enhance wonderfully. Land devoted to fruit culture has the highest valuation of any farmland in the world.

Fruit land in the neighborhood of Grand Junction, Colo., has sold within a few years as high as \$2,200 an acre. Men who were over there in that section during its development period, looking over the rock-covered surface of the land, never dreamed that it would reach an extraordinary valuation. It required the expenditure of much energy to prepare that land for cultivation. Concentrated and intelligent effort has made the country about Grand Junction, Palisades and other towns in that immediate vicinity of western Colorado one of the richest, if not the richest, fruit growing sections of America. In time the Rio Grande valley will surpass in fruit culture western Colorado, and when that time comes, and it is not far distant, ten acres of fruit land here under cultivation will constitute absolute independence for any citizen of this country. The climate is favorable to fruit culture in the Rio Grande valley. The cost of preparation of land in this valley for orchard purposes, and particularly in this immediate neighborhood, is a mere trifle as compared to the cost for the same purpose in western Colorado.

Some Los Lunas Crops.

Aside from fruit culture, the Los Lunas farmer cultivates alfalfa on a constantly increasing scale. He also grows wheat extensively. In fact, it may be said that wheat and alfalfa are the staple agricultural crops of this section. Los Lunas claims the proud distinction of being the second largest shipping point for alfalfa on the El Paso division of the A. T. & S. F. This is certainly much to her credit when one considers that alfalfa is the principal crop of this valley.

The large amount of wheat grown here is evidenced by the modern and up-to-date flour mill operated by A. A. Romero & Bro. A flour mill in a community tells the stranger, merrily but foreboding, that he is in the midst of a wheat growing country.

The Southwestern Irrigation and Power company has 4,000 acres south of the town upon which they have now about twenty miles in main ditches and laterals. This year this company will have under cultivation alfalfa, wheat, corn, oats and other kindred crops. This land has fine improvements on it. The local manager is John V. Stevens, and the president of the company is Thomas B. Harlan, one of St. Louis' leading capitalists.

An Interview With an Old Citizen.

Simon Neustadt, postmaster and general merchant, in a conversation with the Herald correspondent, said: "Business is much better now in Los Lunas than at the corresponding period of last year. We all—merchants, farmers and citizens generally—believe that a prosperous season is ahead of us on account of the generous rains which have fallen here in the last few months. I have been a resident of Los Lunas for thirty years and in all that time I never saw as much

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YOUR HEAD VS. MUSCLE

If you are earning \$20 a week by the sweat of your brow, try investing \$1 each week in a \$20 lot in the KELLY ADDITION to the business center of the growing town of Willard, and at the end of five years you will have saved more money on the \$1 a week investment, than you will have saved out of the balance of your \$20 a week wages.

WILLARD

Now has a population of about 600, is located in the center of the richest agricultural district east of the Manzano Mountains, 83 miles from Albuquerque at the junction of the A. T. & S. F. (Cut-off), and the New Mexico Central Railroads, the latter road directly connecting with the Rock Island, Denver & Rio Grande, and El Paso & Northwestern systems.

Oceans of water are now being developed by many large wells in the immediate vicinity for irrigating purposes, and owing to the excellent quality of the water the railroad companies are distributing Willard water along their lines as far east as the Pecos, and as far north as Kennedy.

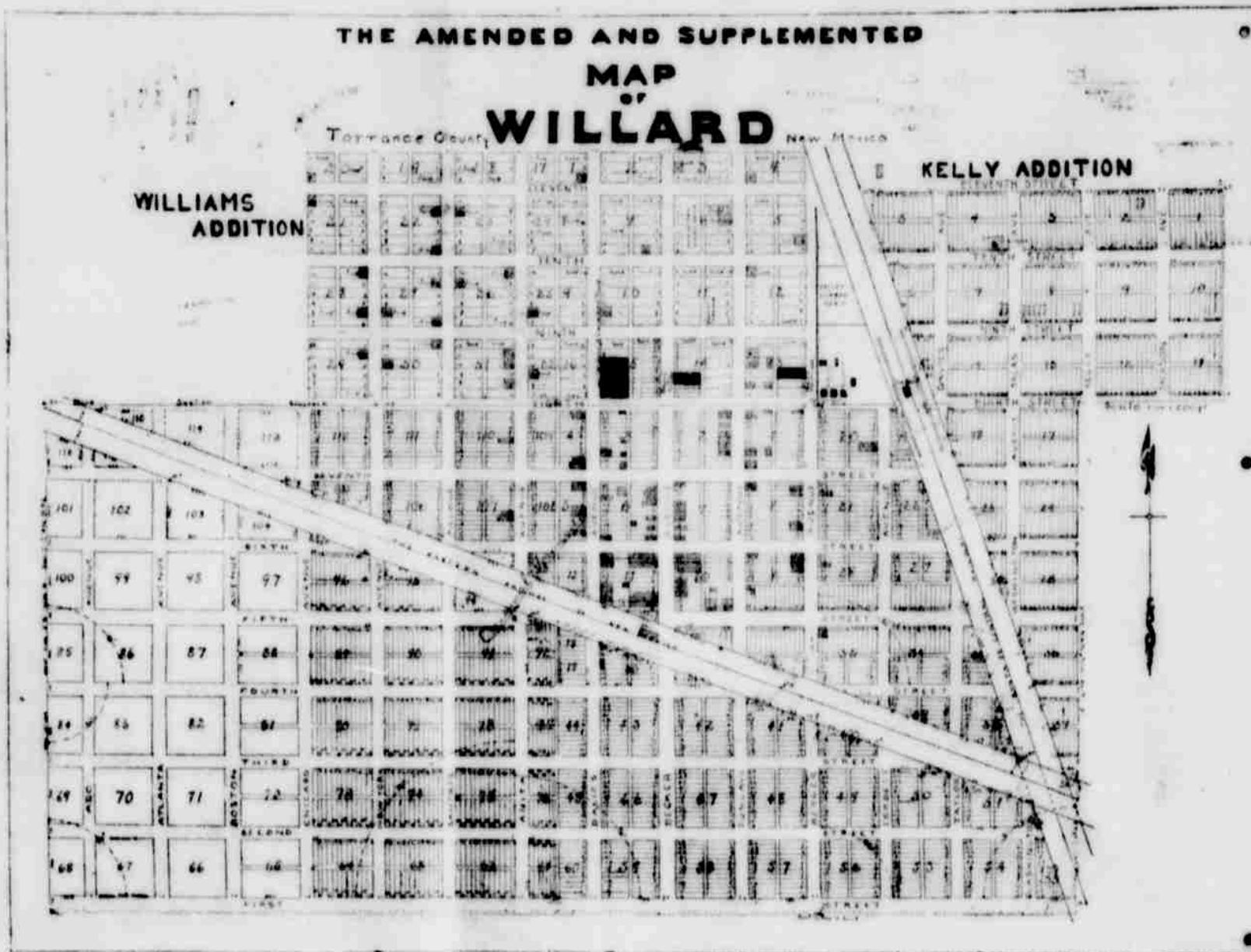
The Kelly Addition

The Kelly Addition adjoins the business center of the town, as shown on the plat, and consists of 300 lots, 25 x 142 feet each, level, with 16 foot alleys and 60 foot streets, and are now offered for sale at from

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BLOCK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	\$15	\$5	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	
2	25	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	25	
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15	35	35	35																					

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BOUNDARY LINE TO BE SETTLED IN NEAR FUTURE

United States Commissioner Cockrell and Texas Commissioner Scott to Meet at Monahans, Near Southeast Corner.

Texas, N. M., April 3.—Sam R. Scott of Waco is the commissioner named on behalf of the state of Texas to work with F. M. Cockrell of Missouri in re-establishing the Texas-New Mexico boundary line.

Immediately upon receipt of Governor Colquitt's nomination of Scott's appointment, General Cockrell conferred with the officials of the general land office at Washington, and it was determined that the work would be started next month. The commissioners, Cockrell and Scott, will meet at Monahans, the nearest station on the Texas and Pacific railroad to the southeast corner of New Mexico where work will begin. The surveyors, line-men and column and others who will be sent by the general land office to do the field work will meet with the commissioners there.

The commission is charged with re-marking the boundary line, replacing monuments which have been destroyed, but not marking out a new boundary line. They will work northward from the southeast corner first, this line being 311 miles long. The south line is 218 miles long. Mr. Cockrell says that he expects to travel along with surveyors and camp out with them all summer. He is the representative of New Mexico appointed by the president. Mr. Cockrell, who gained the military title of general as a commander of Confederate troops in the Civil war, said the experience, no doubt, would take him back in memory half a century. He could not say whether he looked forward with pleasurable anticipation to the work, as there undoubtedly would be some hardships encountered. Mr. Cockrell is 77 years of age.

WORK ON ADAMS HOTEL STOPS

Men Who Will Invest Their Money in Quarter-Million Dollar Hostelry Wait Result of Prohibition Scrap.

Phoenix, Ariz., April 3.—Construction work on the Hotel Adams has stopped and will not be resumed until after the local option election on April 15. That determination was arrived at by the unanimous vote in a meeting of the stockholders held yesterday afternoon in the Commercial hotel, in which 85 per cent of the stock was represented.

The action was taken solely as an expression on the question of a wet or dry town, a fact which no stockholder made a secret of. Rather, the stockholders desire that fact to be known, though it is stated that the merits of the liquor question were in no way discussed in the meeting. It was with the stockholders a question of business surely. They decided that they did not want to put \$250,000 into a hotel in a dry town. It is their judgment and observation of the experience of other cities that such a structure in a city of this size and under the conditions that surround Phoenix, would prove a financial white elephant if the city goes dry. It is their money and they do not care to take that chance with it, against their judgment.

It is the privilege of the people to vote for prohibition if they want it, and the stockholders say it is their privilege to restrain themselves from building a hotel. The property can be utilized for other purposes, and, of course, will be if the hotel is not built. Less money will be invested and some kind of a building to serve some sort of purpose will of course be brought out of the structure now begun, even if it is only another row of one-story store-fronts. The men interested are not going to throw away the money already invested, or any more than they have to, but they argue that they can keep from spending a lot more that will return them no revenue.

Construction has proceeded just as far as it can go without great loss in a later changing of the building plans. That is why the work is to stop now, rather than molt work, or raze the weaker houses, or alter the exterior. The work has been held and the town is desirous of that which should be the verdict of the people. The rooms are now in place and ready for the pouring of concrete for the mounting floor. What was to have been started today, but if the building is not to be used for a hotel, a magazine floor will be not only useless, but almost unfit the building for almost any other use. In any event it would have to be taken out at a considerable cost, in addition to the work that must be done in getting rid of it.

IT'S EASY TO HATCH CHICKS.

The difficulty is in raising them. Owing to improper feeding the death among young chicks is